

Listing of Claims:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A device for discriminating valuable papers comprising:

a conveyer for transporting a valuable paper inserted from an inlet along a passageway to a stand-by position of the passageway;

a validation sensor for detecting an optical or a magnetic pattern of the paper moving through the passageway to produce detection signals;

a stacking device for stowing the paper in the stand-by position into an accumulation chamber;

a trigger element connected to a battery and turned on by an opening operation of a cover mounted adjacent to the inlet;

a drive controller for receiving detection signals from the validation sensor, validating the authenticity of the paper and providing the conveyer and stacking device with drive signals, said drive controller comprising a timer for counting time elapse since the trigger element is turned on;

a self-holding circuit connected between the battery and drive controller and switched from an inactive to an active condition when the trigger element is turned on to supply electric power from the battery through the self-holding circuit to the drive controller, validation sensor and conveyer;

a shutoff circuit which has a control terminal for receiving a control signal from the drive controller to switch the self-holding circuit in the active to the inactive condition and thereby interrupt the power supply through the self-holding circuit ~~except dark current~~; and

a stack sensor for detecting stowage of the paper into the accumulation chamber in the stacking device to produce a detection signal to the drive controller;

wherein the drive controller is further operated to:

i) rotate the conveyer in the forward direction to transport the paper to the stand-by position, when the drive controller decides the paper inserted from the inlet is genuine;

ii) provide the control signal for the shutoff circuit to switch the self-holding circuit from the active to the inactive condition, when the drive controller receives a detection signal from the stack sensor;

iii) rotate the conveyer in the adverse direction to return the paper to the inlet, when the drive controller does not decide the paper inserted from the inlet is genuine; and

iv) switch the self-holding circuit from the active to the inactive condition, when the timer has counted a predetermined period of time.

23. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, further comprising:

an inlet sensor for detecting insertion of the paper, wherein electric power is supplied to the inlet sensor and drive controller after the self-holding circuit is switched

to the active condition; and wherein the drive controller drives the conveyer to transport the paper along the passageway after the self-holding circuit is switched to the active condition.

24. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the self-holding circuit comprises:

a first switching element connected in series between the battery and drive controller and in parallel to the trigger element; and

a second switching element connected to a control terminal of the first switching element;

wherein a control terminal of the second switching element is connected to the trigger element and shutoff circuit.

25. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the self-holding circuit comprises a thyristor; the trigger element is connected to a gate terminal of the thyristor; and the shutoff circuit is connected to two main terminals of the thyristor.

26. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the trigger element comprises an automatic resetting switch or infra-red ray sensor for detecting a human body.

27. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the battery can be electrically charged by electric

current supplied through outer terminals and a converter connected to an AC power source.

28. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the trigger element comprises a pulse generator for producing a pulse to switch the self-holding circuit from the inactive to the active condition when the trigger element is turned on.

29. (New) The device of claim 22, wherein there is no power consumption except dark current when trigger element is in the off condition.